

# Hawaii MARINE

## INSIDE

Colors	A-2
MWDs	A-3
3/3 in Afghanistan	A-5
Body Flyer	B-1
MCCS & SM&SP	B-2
Reading List	B-3
Word to Pass	B-6
Menu	B-7
PacDiv Matches	C-1
Sports Briefs	C-2
The Bottom Line	C-3
Postal Worker	D-1

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 10

WWW.MCBH.USMC.MIL

MARCH 11, 2005

## Capitol holds memorial

Families hold treasured memories of fallen heroes

**Sgt. Danielle M. Bacon**

*Marine Forces Pacific*

**CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii** — They were husbands, fathers, friends, sons and brothers. They are the 27 Marines and one Sailor from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, who were killed during Operation Iraqi Freedom in January and February.

They are heroes — each mourned and remembered for one or more of these roles during a memorial service held at the Hawaii State Capitol Monday.

“Everyone of these brave men are heroes who recently fought in the battle of Fallujah. I believe that battle had great significance,” said Col. Jeffery Patterson, 3rd Marine Regiment commanding officer. “I believe it was this battle more than anything else that inspired eight million Iraqis to face their fears and cast a vote against tyranny and oppression.”

A mother of a fallen Marine agreed.

“All of these boys left a legacy,” said Helen Gilbert, mother of Cpl. Richard A. Gilbert, 26, of Dayton, Ohio. “Richard wanted to be a politician. He wanted to make a difference ... and he did. Giving Iraqis the right to vote — that’s the legacy all of these men left.”

There were many common traits shared by these service members — their love for their Corps, country and their mission.

“He loved what he was doing,” said Rob Hopper, father of Lance Cpl. Brian C.

See **MEMORIAL**, A-6



Sgt. Danielle M. Bacon

Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle speaks at the memorial service at the Hawaii State Capitol, Monday. The memorial service was held to honor 27 Marines and one Sailor from 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, who were killed while serving with the 31st MEU during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

## 3/3 scores major success



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

Second Lt. Luke Lazzo, platoon commander with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, takes a knee and gets his bearings before leading his Marines the final distance to where his platoon was responsible for ensuring no suspected terrorists slipped through the Marines' cordon.

‘America’s Battalion’ works with village elders to find terrorist threats

**Cpl. Rich Mattingly**

*Combined Joint Task Force 76*

**KHOST PROVINCE, Afghanistan** — Under the light from a pale yellow moon, the Marines moved swiftly across the cold and barren wadi. Using hand and arm signals to silently mobilize squads and fire teams, they moved into position around the village. Shifting from the shadow of trees to the low rock walls in the surrounding fields as they neared, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines sealed a seamless cordon to search for several men they suspected of perpetuating terrorist activity and attacks on Afghan and coalition forces in the area.

Only when the night’s reverie was split by the blaring sounds of psychological operations’ surrender appeals and the roar of Cobra gun ship appearing a few hundred feet overhead, did the inhabitants realize they had been surrounded. By the break of dawn, the battalion was well underway to completing one of its most successful operations to date in the region.

“We moved over 44 kilometers at night, dismounted a few kilometers away, and surrounded the village where we believed the enemy to be hiding, by moving in on foot. Our enemies had never seen anything like this before, so they weren’t ready for us, and they had no chance to escape into the mountains,” explained Capt. Ken Barr, commanding officer, Weapons Company, 3/3. According to Barr, his company had been

See **3/3**, A-4

## Pegasus pulls together

**Cpl. Megan L. Stiner**

*Press Chief*

The Marine Corps has a proud tradition of providing immediate support — anywhere in the world — at a moment’s notice. With the same sense of urgency, but on a smaller scale, the Marines of Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 463, known as “Pegasus,” proved that tradition is still very much alive.

Although the Pegasus Marines were not called to a deployment on foreign soil, their expediency and efficiency made it possible to better their squadron in the long run.

“We were supposed to send three Marines to the Weapons and Tactics Instructors Course in Yuma, Arizona,” began Sgt. John T. Logsdon, flight-line supervisor and crew chief for HMH-463. “But we thought it had been cancelled. Then at 12 a.m., on Saturday, we got the call that we had to be ready to leave this Monday.”

In order for three of their Marines to attend the two-month course, they had to bring two CH53-D Sea Stallion helicopters and more than 40 other Marines to support and maintain the helicopters. This meant, preparing two helicopters for travel in two days.

“The Marines had to tear down the helos enough so they would fit inside another craft to transport them,” explained Master Sgt. Miguel A. Castaneda, maintenance chief, HMH-463. “All the sudden they were tasked with something extremely difficult, but they came in and got it done in no time.”

Usually, according to Logsdon, it takes about two days per aircraft to fully prepare a helicopter for traveling.

“The Marines had both of the Super Stallions torn down in less

See **PEGASUS**, A-8

## TMO urges preparation

**Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson**

*Combat Correspondent*

Peak season for shipping household goods for military personnel who are moving to a different duty station, finishing enlistments or retiring begins in early May and continues throughout mid-September. Preparation for transport of household goods and, in some cases, vehicles, to duty stations, permanent homes and storage facilities begins well in advance.

The process begins with those who work at the Traffic Management Office. It is their duty to get the job done; ensuring shipments leave and arrive at the correct destination, on time.

Since this is peak season, it is highly recommended that all military personnel get their orders to TMO, at the very latest, 10 business days from the time they receive their TMO brief, said Sgt. Manuel L. Loggins, personal property non-commissioned officer, TMO, Headquarters Battalion.

“If people bring us their orders too late, it can put them at the mercy of the actual shipping companies,” said the Chicago, Ill. native. “That can put a huge dampener on people’s plans — if dates end up having to be switched around.”

This time of year, the people at TMO are competing with other services to secure move

See **TMO**, A-2

## K-Bay hosts Makahiki

Marines participate in Hawaiian traditions

**Sgt. Joe Lindsay**

*Community Relations Chief*

Flying fish leaped from the ocean as if to say, “welcome,” just moments before a procession of canoes — one of which carried the cloud-like akua loa, or tangible representation, of the Hawaiian god Lono — crossed their path before landing at the Hale Koa Beach to mark the end of the four-month Makahiki season.

More than 100 native Hawaiians and a handful of Marines gathered at the beach aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay to greet the canoes. In the lead was Kapono Souza, a Windward resident and, on this ceremonial day, the guardian of Lono’s akua loa.

Wrestling competitions, hula dancing, Hawaiian music, and a “talk story” followed the canoe landing. For many, the most memorable event of the day seemed to be the “fish greeting.”

“To see the fish jump out of the water, like that, as the canoes were landing was a beautiful moment,” said Kanoa Aikala-Nelson, a Heeiea area resident and Makahiki participant. He said that the only way he could describe the moment would be to say that it was “a sign from the gods that they were pleased. For me, personally, it was an affirmation of all I believe in.”

According to Donna Ann Kamehaiku Camvel, Ahupuaa Restoration Council of Heeiea chairman and a member of the third generation of her family



Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia

Wearing a blue pareau, Kalei Hoopai simulates a fight against Kanoa Nelson during the Makahiki closing ceremony, Saturday. The four-month season celebrates Lono, the god of clouds, thunder, lightning, rain, agriculture and fertility.

to preside as Makahiki event coordinator aboard MCB Hawaii since the mid-1970s, the closing of Makahiki is an event that is deeply significant for the Hawaiian people.

“From ancient times, the Makahiki season has been a time for peace, reflection, games, festivals and planning,” said Camvel. “The presence of Lono — the god of clouds, thunder, lightning, rain, agriculture and fertility — during the four months of Makahiki signifies to us that there will be no war or fighting among the Hawaiian people during this time.”

According to Camvel, the Hale Koa Beach area, known as “Kahananui” by the Hawaiians, is consid-

See **MAKAHIKI**, A-8



# NEWS BRIEFS

## Lane Closure at Mokapu and Lawrence Roads

There will be a lane closure at the intersection of Mokapu Road and Lawrence Road from Monday until April 29, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in order to complete a trenching project. Lane closure will affect only one lane in either or both directions. Cones will be set up to mark the lane being closed, with flagmen positioned at each end to direct traffic.

## Construction on Mokapu Road

KD Construction, Inc. will be performing waterline installation on Mokapu Road between Monday and April 29 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. This work will be in addition to the utilities installation on Mokapu Road; however, utilities installation and waterline installation will not be performed concurrently. Traffic will be directed around the work area.

## Red Cross to Recognize Volunteers

The American Red Cross will be honoring their volunteers for their services in 2004 at a luncheon Monday at the Staff Non-Commissioned Officers Club, Building 3088, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Battle of Iwo Jima 60th Anniversary Ceremony

At 2 p.m. Wednesday, Iwo Jima veterans, returning from a 60th anniversary reunion at the tiny speck of an island that brought so many casualties to both sides, will be honored at a ceremony at the Pacific War Memorial, located on Marine Corps Base Hawaii. This ceremony will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima, and is open to the public. This date also marks the third anniversary of the dedication of The Pacific War Memorial, which pays tribute to all who have served and continue to serve our great nation.

A luncheon will be held for active duty Marines and Iwo Jima veterans at 11:45 a.m. at the MCB Hawaii's dining facility, Anderson Hall.

For further information call Mrs. Sarah Fry at MCB Hawaii Public Affairs Office at 257-8832.

## Triathlon may Cause Delays

The 4th Annual Lanikai Triathlon will be held, March 20, in Kailua and aboard MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. MCB Hawaii support for the event will include the closing of Mokapu Road to through traffic from 5 to 9 a.m. on race day, Sunday, from the back gate to the intersection of Mokapu Road and Harris Street. Traffic will be routed to minimize impact on residents. Appropriate event signs and traffic control points will be posted.

## Professor, Author to Speak on Global Relations

Dr. Elizabeth Van Wie Davis, PhD, will be at the MCB Hawaii Theater at 1 p.m., March 29, to present a lecture on, "The Effects of the GWOT and Militant Islam on China-U.S. Relations." There will be a question and answer period following the lecture.

## CVIC Sets Studio Hours

The Combat Visual Information Center will be open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7:30 a.m until 11 a.m. for promotion photos. No appointments are being taken, walk-in basis only.

## HI 5¢ Redemption Sites

Automated redemption machines will be stationed in the parking lot across from the Exchange Annex furniture/toy/garden store Tuesdays and Fridays, 12 to 5 p.m., beginning Tuesday.

A Camp Smith site will be set up in Lot 11 near the PMO building. The site will be open every other Wednesday, from 12 to 5 p.m.

## Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852

# Combat veteran dies at age 82

## Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Press Chief

At an early age he showed dedication and leadership through his schoolwork and was nominated as the class president at Center High School in Marlborough, Mo. Little did he know that when he got older he would become a part of our nation's history, and eventually be buried with high honors and respect.

Retired Col. Lyle V. Tope, grew up as a sports and auto mechanic guru. He worked for the *Kansas City Journal Post* for, none other than, Walter Cronkite. Tope was also well known in his town for his Model "T" Ford, "The Red Demon," which he showed off by racing through neighborhood streets.

When World War II began, Tope wasted little time in joining the Marine Corps. In September 1942 he became a Naval Aviation Cadet, prompted by his love of airplanes and his devotion to the Cleveland Air Races.

Throughout the next few years, Tope served as dive-bomber pilot and torpedo bomb flyer pilot, and was a member of a squadron that performed classified missions.

After picking up the rank of captain, Tope became interested in boosting morale on base, so he formed two basketball leagues. One was a special team, the Marine Flyers, who came close to winning the 1951 AAU tournament.

Leaving the safety of the ground, Tope

had a close encounter with death during his deployment to Korea in 1952. His plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire, so he guided it to a ditch a mile offshore. Once back on solid ground, he had to fight off four Chinese fighters who had seen his plane go down, but he was aided by 10 Air Force jets that drove off the enemy. An Air Force helicopter later rescued Tope.

After his promotion to major, Tope spent six years training Navy cadets and officers from seven foreign countries.

Once Tope took on the rank of colonel in 1967, he shipped off to Vietnam.

Throughout his career Tope was recognized and honored for his actions during World War II, Korea and Vietnam, receiving 23 personal decorations, which include the Distinguished Service Medal and two Legion of Merit Medals with the Combat "V."

With his combat missions behind him, Tope settled into a position as the commandant's Marine Corps principal intelligence staff officer, becoming functional manager for all Marine Corps intelligence and cryptology.

October 1, 1973, Tope retired from the Marine Corps after 31 years and one month of dedicated service.

On Feb. 16, Tope passed away from diabetes, after fighting the condition for several years. He was laid to rest at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.

## All must respect military customs

Customs and courtesies for Marines and Sailors are a matter of respect, especially when it comes to the raising or lowering of the American flag. Every morning at 8 a.m. the flag is raised and every evening, at dusk, the flag is taken down in front of Building 216.

When the sound of the first note of the National Anthem is played, everyone

within sight or hearing distance must render respect. This means drivers of motor vehicles must pull over and stop, and while outside, service members in uniform must face the direction of the flag, or music — if the flag is not visible — and salute. All others should stop and stand at attention with their hand over their heart, until the last note is played.

## Behind the wire



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Michael Garcia, mason, Smith Masonry, cuts wires in preparation to lay metal support beams for the cement they will be laying across from the football field. Workers have been doing construction since Feb. 1, putting in a hockey rink. By April 15, the cement should be layed and final preparations should take place.

## TMO, From A-1

dates for Marines who have to ship household effects.

"There is limited space on aircrafts, and there may not be space if someone doesn't get their orders to us on time," said Loggins. "Since we are so busy, if customers can come in 20 to 30 days before travel, it would be extremely helpful."

Another situation that TMO deals with is people who take their pet(s) with them to the mainland. Because it is warmer during the peak travel season, airlines impose a pet embargo, which restricts travel pets whenever the temperature aboard the aircraft rises above 80 degrees. In order to ensure pets are able to travel with their owners, TMO needs to be informed as soon as possible if a pet is going to travel with the service member. When notified, TMO will book an evening flight so that the pet(s) can travel with their owners.

"The most important aspect about having pets travel is that we need the exact dimensions of the kennel the animal will be traveling in," said Loggins. "We need to know this to ensure there is enough space on the plane."

According to Loggins, dealing with the pet issue is not the biggest challenge.

The hardest part for the workers at TMO is ensuring all of the paperwork is accurate, correct and on time, said the 25-year-old.

"It's hard when a Marine was given his orders two days prior to traveling," said Loggins. "They need to be getting their orders at an earlier date so we can make sure we can do our job."

Although Loggins admits that TMO can handle short-fused requests for request for travel and shipments, having to find and contract a shipping company within a matter of a few days can be near impossible.

The key to a smooth, successful transfer of personnel and their household effects is to be prepared, get paperwork to TMO as quickly as possible, and schedule an appointment for a TMO brief.

When going to TMO, travelers need to bring at least five copies of his or her orders, four more copies if shipping a car — along with two copies of the car's title and two copies of the registration. After TMO receives the proper documentation, they set up a date for the TMO brief that explains the entitlements for military based on each rank.

Loggins advised, "It's important that people bring in what we need, right away, so we can do our job faster and get things done correctly for the customer."

For more information on passenger transportation and shipping household effects, contact the TMO office at 257-3566.

## DUIs are career killers

*(Editor's Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those arrested for driving under the influence [DUI], driving while intoxicated or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the **Hawaii Marine** newspaper.)*

•Feb. 27, Cpl. Abbey L. McNamee of 3rd Radio Battalion. Driving under the influence with a blood alcohol content of .22 percent.

•March 5, Master Gunnery Sgt. Louis L. Schumacher of Headquarters Battalion. Driving under the influence with a blood alcohol content of .14 percent.

•March 6, Petty Officer 2nd Class Thomas R. Barbour of USS Port Royal. Driving under the influence with a blood alcohol content of .10 percent.

## Hawaii MARINE

Commanding General	Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III
Base Sergeant Major	Sgt. Maj. Anthony E. Franks
Public Affairs Officer	Maj. Patricia Johnson
Public Affairs Chief	Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia
Managing Editor	Millie Perera
Staff Writer	Sgt. Jereme Edwards
Sports Editor	Sgt. Joseph A. Lee
Staff Writer	Sgt. Joe Lindsay
Staff Writer	Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Staff Writer	Cpl. Rich Mattingly
Press Chief	Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Lifestyles	Susana Choy
News Editor & On Point Editor	Kristin Herrick

The *Hawaii Marine* is an unofficial newspaper published every Friday by MidWeek Printing, Inc., 45-525 Luluku Road, Kaneohe, HI 96744, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Marine Corps, under exclusive contract to the U.S. Marine Corps. This civilian enterprise is an authorized publication for members of the military services.

Contents of the *Hawaii Marine* are not necessarily the official views of or endorsed by the United States Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Marine Corps. All advertising is provided by MidWeek Printing, Inc., 529-4886.

The appearance of advertising in the *Hawaii Marine*, including inserts and supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the DoD, DoN or the U.S. Marine Corps of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in the *Hawaii Marine* shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

Editorial content or public service announcements (i.e., all content other than paid advertisements) is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii. Opinions expressed are not to be considered an official expression of the DoD or the U.S. Marine Corps.

Submit items for the *Hawaii Marine* to PAO no later than noon on the Friday prior to publication, using the following addresses:

HAWAII MARINE, BOX 63062, BUILDING 216,  
MCB HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, HAWAII 96863  
E-MAIL: EDITOR@HAWAIIIMARINE.COM  
FAX: 257-1289, PHONE: 257-8836

## Weekend weather outlook

### Friday



Day — Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated showers, winds will be northeasterly at 10-15 mph

Night — Mostly cloudy isolated thunderstorms and scattered showers easterly winds at 12-18 mph

Hi — 74  
Low — 68

### Saturday



Day — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers, winds will be northeasterly at 15-20 mph

Night — Mostly cloudy with isolated showers northerly winds at 10-15 mph

Hi — 74  
Low — 67

### Sunday



Day — Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated showers, winds will be northerly at 10-15 mph

Night — Mostly cloudy, winds will be light northeasterly at 8-12 mph

Hi — 76  
Low — 68



# Gone to the dogs

## Kaneohe Bay K-9 units complete mission — and then some

**Cpl. Megan L. Stiner**  
*Press Chief*

*“He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, and his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart.”*

— **Unknown author**

This is a statement very fitting for military working dog handlers and the many individuals the dogs protect and defend each day, according to handlers assigned to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

“Our primary mission is deploying dogs and handlers forward,” explained Sgt. Timothy R. Johnson, kennel master, Military Police Department, Kaneohe Bay.

Secondary, according to the kennel master, is the mission of supporting efforts focused on defending the war on terrorism from a stateside standpoint.

Currently, K-Bay has four handlers and four dogs in Iraq, with two more handler and dog teams on their way over. Aside from those who are currently in or headed to theater, K-Bay is home to six Marines who have already experienced overseas duty with canine sidekicks.

Before the dogs are fit to defend stateside bases and overseas heroes, the Belgian Malinois and German shepherd, the two breeds used by Marine Corps military police, go through training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

Once the dogs reach the fleet, usually around the age of one-and-a-half



Cpl. Mark D. Vierig, military working dog handler, takes his military working dog, Max, around a truck in search of narcotics. During exercises the handlers set up narcotic and explosive training aids for the dogs to sniff out. Once they pick up the scent of the aid, the dog signals that there is a narcotic or explosive scent present.

years, they begin training with a designated handler and continue training each working day on their particular specialty. Each handler must certify with their dog in their particular area of expertise. Handlers use aids like drugs or explosives, hiding them in various places for the dog to find. The dogs become “certified” whenever they can find these aids and signal, to their handler, where the aids are hidden.

The two primary areas in which Marine Corps military working dogs are trained are explosives and narcotics detection. In addition to receiving obedience training, they are also trained to understand hand signals, taught patrolling techniques and receive aggression training.

“On base, we have a very aggressive [Random Anti-Terrorism Measure] program,” said Johnson, a Portsmouth, Va. native. “We conduct [commanding general] random-vehicle inspections, which can be conducted anywhere on base, every week.”

When military working dogs are used in random vehicle inspections, they are there to search vehicles and ensure no contraband or other dangerous substances are brought onto or kept on base.

According to Johnson, when the dogs are not being used for security on base, they are training for their primary mission.

“We attempt to create

realistic combat environments in order to conduct combat-related training exercises,” explained Johnson.

To simulate the noises of war, the handlers perform training, on base, in areas such as the flight line and the rifle range so that they can acclimate the dogs to the types of environments they could be working in, overseas.

Some of the countries K-Bay military working dog handlers and dogs have deployed to in recent years include, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Korea, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Since most of these countries have warm and humid climates, Hawaii-based dogs have an advantage over dogs from other bases.

“One of the positive aspects of being in Hawaii and training our dogs here,” began Johnson, “is the fact that they are already fairly familiar to the warm weather conditions they will face in theater.”

Most people don’t conjure up an image of a military working dog when they think about a combat zone, but these dogs are extremely efficient in detecting the main object that causes the most casualties in war-torn areas, today — improvised explosive devices.

In addition to providing this element of security, the dogs also increase morale and help create a

less-stressful environment — even in threatening situations.

“Grunts love and value the dogs at extreme measures in combat areas,” admitted Sgt. Mark D. Vierig, military working dog handler, Military Police Department, Kaneohe Bay.

In combat situations, it is human nature to feel fear, even if it is far in the back of one’s mind, according to Vierig. Dogs, on the other hand, are fearless in the same situation.

“They are a detractor from the fear,” continued the Park City, Utah native. “When the Marines see the dog, it is a comfort, not only because the dog is clearing a safe passage for them, but also because of the calm and fearless demeanor of the animal.”

Besides detecting explosive devices, the dogs and handlers are responsible for providing security.

“They do searches at entry control, personnel and vehicle check points,” said Vierig. “They also participate in unit missions, conducting raids and going on patrols.”

Although technology keeps advancing, explained Johnson, nothing yet has been able to come close to achieving the capabilities of military working dogs, in combat zones and, stateside.

In certain circumstances, the dogs



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner  
Duc, a military working dog, is one of many assigned to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay.

could even be equipped with cameras and hearing pieces.

With ever-changing technological advances, only time will tell whether or not man will ever replace the MWD and its exceptional abilities.

That day has not arrived, so K-Bay’s military working dogs and their handlers continue to do their duty, from the deserts of Iraq to the sands of Pyramid Rock, keeping service members, families, friends and residents safe.

Left — Lance Cpl. Justin Beneway, military working dog handler, Military Police Company, motions to where he wants military working dog Dino to search for drugs during a vehicle inspection.



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner



Sgt. Ryan E. O'Hare



Lance Cpl. Miguel A. Carrasco Jr.



Lance Cpl. Miguel A. Carrasco Jr.

Above — Cpl. Bruce L. St. John, a military working dog handler from MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, shows his dog a 20 mm round. The dog was able to pick up the scent of the round through a safe box while conducting detailed searches in Fallujah.

Right — Lance Cpl. Kalen A. Beasley, military working dog handler, Military Police Company, runs his military working dog, Duc, through one of the obstacles in the K-9 obedience course at K-Bay.



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner



3/3, *From A-1*

planning the operation for more than a month-and-a-half, gathering key human intelligence information on anti-government militia forces that were operating in the Khost province. Over the course of two days, combined forces from Weapons and Headquarters and Service Companies, set up the operation, quite literally, in the suspected terrorists’ backyards. Both companies are organized as provisional rifle companies in the battalion’s expansive area of responsibility.

The battalion was able to capture eight men believed to be members of anti-government militias and seize a significant amount of illegal weapons and explosives. And they did it without a single shot being fired.

One of Weapons Company’s platoon commanders explained that the relationship they fostered in the area, over the course of the last few months, had improved their successes and ability to go in “hard and fast” without disrupting friendly ties.

“The local populace has begun to trust us more and more as we’ve built a relationship with them through local patrols with Afghan police,” said 2nd Lt. Luke Lazzo, second platoon commander, Weapons Co., 3/3. “We try to stress to them that it’s their community, and they have to take responsibility for the actions of those they live with. We’re here to help them with that. That allows us to go into a town the way we did and successfully find our enemies without too much resistance from the locals.”

The Marines and Sailors of 3/3 are operating with a high level of cultural and societal awareness and attention to detail in order to strike a certain balance with the local populace during security and stability operations, said Barr. This is something he believes is a reflection of his Marines’ professionalism as they complete more complicated missions.

When Weapons Co. entered the village, the commander’s first action was to meet with the village elders and give them a chance to give up the men who were wanted in connection with the attacks.

“We went to the village elders and mullahs and asked them how they would like us to handle searches of houses in their villages,” continued Barr. “We

told them that if they would give up the men responsible for attacking Marines and Afghan forces in the area, then we wouldn’t be forced to cordon and search their villages. The Marines and Sailors have upheld their end of things admirably, which improves our chances of even more future successes.”

It was that approach that led to the operation’s success, said 3/3 battalion commander Lt. Col. Norm Cooling.

“It’s easy to get on line and fight a clearly defined enemy,” said Cooling. “In our situation, you can’t always locate, close with, and destroy the enemy in a straight forward manner. You have to establish human intelligence relationships to locate the enemy and then devise creative ways to close with him. While doing that here in Sabari, we sent a significant message to the villagers — that by helping us, they can help make

their town and their country a safer place.”

The Marines of 3/3 were very successful in their searches, which were done with the supervision of the town’s elders. In the suspects’ homes they found everything from grenades shoved into sacks of flour, to weapons buried in dung heaps, and plastic explosives and blasting caps stuffed in an old car tire. One squad even recovered a belt of illegal armor-piercing AK-47 rounds hidden under an infant in a crib.

“I, for one, understand the mentality of a homeowner who doesn’t want some stranger coming into their house,” said Sgt. Chris Bloom, squad leader with Weapons Co., whose squad recovered several stockpiles of munitions from the suspected insurgents. “This is their country, and we always have to be aware of that. What we did by waiting for the elders to go in with us, and let them give up the guys we were after, was very important

to maintaining the trust of the people. We just want to take the guns and explosives away from the people who shot at us and make sure they pay for their crimes.”

“It comes down to the golden rule,” said Barr. “You have to treat others here the way you would want to be treated in their situation. This war is going to be won by the use of well-aimed, non-kinetic rounds,” he said, referring to successful information and psychological operations campaigns that win the proverbial “hearts and minds” of the populace. “You may be able to kill a lot of the bad guys with bullets, but you can also lose this war that way.”

Weapons Co. plans to follow up their successful round up of suspected terrorists with medical assistance operations in the area. America’s Battalion continues to operate throughout Eastern Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

**Capt. Ken Barr, company commander, Weapons Company, 3/3, meets with elders of the village his Marines plan on searching.**

# 3/3 readies for fair weather fighters

**Staff Sgt. Bradley Rhen**  
*CTF Thunder Public Affairs Office*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO, Afghanistan** — As the temperatures gradually begin to rise and the snow starts to melt throughout Afghanistan, anti-government and anti-coalition militants are expected to resume attacks.

Historically, fighters take respite during Afghanistan's harsh winters and re-emerge in the spring with a brief increase in attacks. In the last few weeks, several people claiming to be Taliban spokespersons have called media outlets to let them know they will launch their "spring offensive" when the weather gets fairer.

However, these fair-weather fighters shouldn't expect to catch the coalition on their heels this year, said Maj. Duke Davis, operations officer for Combined Task Force Thunder at Forward Operating Base Salerno in Khost province.

"We've already experienced the attacks, and anything that they launch at us, we'll be ready to address," Davis said.

Compared to near zero level of activity during the winter, Davis said any event or attack is going to seem like an increase, but he certainly doesn't expect an overwhelming offensive.

Instead, he expects a small increase in low-level attacks, but thinks the enemy is banking on a historical trend and perhaps even a bit of hope that their forces are going to come out and conduct major attacks when the warm weather comes.

"But I'm not so sure their message and their threats are associated with any distinct capabilities that they've shown," Davis said. "They're making those statements perhaps in hope, and



Cpl. Rich Mattingly

**Second Lt. Caleb Weiss (center), platoon commander, and Sgt. Nick Lentz (right), squad leader, both with Company L, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, lead their Marines toward a house while conducting search of a village in Korangal Valley during Operation Spurs. Historically, Afghani fighters take respite during the country's harsh winters and re-emerge in the spring with an increase in attacks.**

based on trends, that their insurgent fighters are actually going to come out and do that. I certainly would not give credit to an overarching operational or strategically coordinated action"

Task Force Thunder is still conducting its own "winter offensive," Operation Thunder Freedom, which was developed to exploit the success of last year's presidential election. The purpose of the operation was to stay active, throughout the winter, against the enemy and continue training the Afghan National Army

and Afghan National Police so they are able to address enemy attacks in the spring.

"There's a lot of emphasis on what the enemy is going to be able to do, but I will tell you that the ANA and ANP, in conjunction with U.S. forces, are set and our capabilities are greater than they've ever been," Davis said. "This enemy is going to do what they typically do, which is increase attacks in the spring, but they're going to run into an ANA and an ANP force that is much more capable of addressing those threats on their own feet — let alone with

assistance from the U.S."

Unlike the enemy, U.S. and coalition service members continued operations throughout the winter, no matter the weather.

Sgt. Orlando Arocho, a squad leader with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, said he and his fellow Marines are always ready for anything the enemy throws at them. When they weren't out on missions, Arocho said he and his fellow Marines were constantly training to maintain their readiness — even when it was cold outside.

No matter how chilly it got, the Long Island, N.Y. native said the Marines never decided it was too cold to go on missions.

"No ... no, that never happens," he scoffed. "The Marine Corps just doesn't do that. We have plenty of cold-weather gear that the Marine Corps issues us, and that's just no excuse."

Between their fear of the cold and their tactics, Arocho said he doubts the fortitude of the enemy fighters.

"They like to hit and run — it's almost like a sport to them," he said. "They're playing with people's lives here and trying to suppress the country, and it's just not going to happen. They're just cowards. They get no respect."

Even if the enemy does re-emerge from its hibernation and attack, their abilities are questionable. After all, staying indoors for several months probably hasn't helped their war-fighting skills.

"In our opinion, they have not improved at all," Davis said. "They just went into hibernation. What we've done is we've actually improved ourselves. We're coming out that much better and that much better prepared because of what the ANA and ANP have done throughout the winter months.

# MSG duty gives Marines a new world of opportunity

**Sgt. Joe Lindsay**  
*Community Relations Chief*

*(Editor's Note: This is Part Three in a three-part series on B-Billets, terms or 36-month assignment that Marines serve outside of their Military Occupational Specialty and a position that is often vital for promotion in the Corps. This story focuses on Marine Security Guard Duty. This story originally ran in the June 13, 2003 issue of the Hawaii Marine.)*

In addition to wanting to meet and overcome the challenges, physical and mental, of

earning the title "Marine," one reason Marines give for joining the Corps is a chance for travel and adventure.

Perhaps no other billet in the Marines, or any service, can live up to this desire more than Marine Security Guard duty.

"Prestige, excitement, pride, worldwide travel, adventure and challenge," said Gunnery Sgt. Tony Stewart, a Marine Corps career planner. "You name it, MSG duty has got it."

Marine Security Guards, lance corporal through sergeant, are responsible for providing security at more than 120 U.S. embassies and consulates around the world, and generally

serve two 15-month tours at two posts, one of which is likely to be a hardship post in a third world country. Sergeants and below cannot be married.

Staff non-commissioned officers may be married and accompanied, and serve two 18-month tours, according to Stewart.

"No matter what rank you hold, you might not ever get a chance to hold such a high level of responsibility as when you serve on embassy duty," said Stewart.

Those on MSG duty are primarily responsible for embassies' interior security, normally the lobby or main entrance. Guards are trained

to react to terrorist acts as well as a variety of emergencies such as fires, riots, demonstrations and evacuations.

"The sense of responsibility and the confidence instilled upon each individual Marine far outweighs anything else an enlisted Marine could experience," said Gunnery Sgt. Craig Elliott, who served on MSG duty at the U.S. embassies in Riyadh; Saudi Arabia; and Quito, Ecuador.

Representatives for MSG duty generally make yearly visits to Marine Corps installations. For more information on MSG duty, contact your career planner.



# DI ‘thrived on playing hard’

**Cpl. Derrick A. Small**

*MCRD San Diego*

**MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT SAN DIEGO, Calif.** — With his ability to train men to be part of America’s most elite fighting force — in seven, 13-week cycles — Staff Sgt. Brian D. Bland, made quite an impression on Company I drill instructors before he returned to the infantry. Today, family, friends, fellow Marines and Company I’s drill instructors lament his loss.

A mortar man with Company C, Battalion Landing Team, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, the 26-year-old Marine from Weston, Wyo., was one of the 30 Marines who lost their lives in a helicopter crash near Ar Rutbah, Iraq, Jan. 26. He is survived by his wife and mother.

MEU officials said the Marines who died were veterans of numerous firefights and had fought valiantly during the multinational force’s battle for the hostile city of Fallujah.

Reports of such gallantry did not surprise Bland’s comrades in San Diego. The drill instructors, referring to him as “Super” Bland, said that he was a superior and a humble overachiever.

“I knew him as the ‘go-to Marine’,” said Capt. Peter Dahl, a former series commander with Company I. “At the time, he was only a sergeant, but he was just as good, if not better, than most of his peers.”

Third Battalion routing chief Gunnery Sgt. Dwight Maloy said the Marine Corps hates to lose Marines like Bland — one of superb conduct.

“He basically set the tempo for his company and the battalion,” Maloy said.

A good performer, Bland earned a spot as an Officer Candidate School drill instructor,



Photo Courtesy of 1st Sgt. Dathen C. Edwards

**Staff Sgt. Brian Bland of Weston, Wyo., assigned to the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, MCB Hawaii Kaneohe Bay, was killed when the CH-53E helo he was traveling in crashed in Iraq.**

an opportunity only outstanding leaders in excellent physical condition earn, said Maloy.

According to Staff Sgt. Joseph W. Sonsini, senior drill instructor at the receiving barracks and formerly with Co. I, Bland was respected because he cared more about the overall outcome rather than his own personal achievement.

“He was always thinking of ways to make his platoon better. But it didn’t stop there,” Sonsini said. “He wanted to make the company and the battalion better, too, because he was proud to be a part Company I.”

Fellow Marines viewed Bland in different ways, but results were always similar. “He was very energetic and always on the move,” said 1st Sgt. Dathan Edwards, Co. I first sergeant. “He was very eager to lead and always lead from the front.”

“He wasn’t as intense as some of the other DIs,” Sonsini said. “He was cool, calm

*See BLAND, A-8*

**MEMORIAL, From A-1**

Hopper, 21, of Wynne, Ark. “He had already been injured twice, but had decide not to come home.”

“He always wanted to be a Marine. When he was about eight years old he made a helicopter out of Legos. At about the same age he also drew a picture of the same helicopter that crashed,” said Colleen Parkin, mother of Cpl. Matthew R. Smith, 24, of West Valley, Utah. “He wore his uniform with pride and honor.”

“Michael had only one goal,” said Tonia Pocztar, sister of Sgt. Michael W. Fink, Jr., 28, of Huron Ohio, in an article written by Jim Carney. “To be a Marine.”

“He loved being a Marine,” said Richmon Schumann, father of Lance Cpl. Darrel J. Schumann, 25, of Hampton, Va. “In his last letter, he said he was proud of everything they had done and it was an honor being in the Marines.”

“He lived life large. He was doing exactly what he wanted to do,” said Lynn Kelly, mother of Cpl. Sean P. Kelly, 23, of Gloucester, N.J. “He loved his friends — they were his brothers.”

Helping others was also a common attribute. “He was very protective and grateful of being able to help the Iraqi people,” said Rebecca Spence, mother of Lance Cpl. Joseph Spence, 24, of Scotts Valley, Calif. “He lived a full life during his 24 years. He did more than a lot of people do in a lifetime.”

“He cared about others. He believed in the Marines. He joined the Marine Corps so that we can have peace,” said Nancy Ramos, mother of Lance Cpl. Hector Ramos, 20, Aurora, Ill. “He always had something to say to make me smile.”

The ability to make their mothers laugh seemed to be shared by all the Marines.

“He loved to make me laugh, but he could especially make his mother laugh even when no one else could,” said Hope Nelson, Grandmother of Lance Cpl. Fred L. Maciel, 20, of Spring, Texas. “Everybody was special to him. We felt like we were touched by an angel.”

“He loved playing his guitar, and he love history,” said Rae Oldaugh, mother of Lance Cpl. Allen Klein, 34, of Roseville, Mich. Randall Oldaugh added, “He loved his mummy.”

“He was a fun-loving friend to everybody,” said Matt Schubert, brother of Cpl. Nathan A. Schubert, 22, of Cherokee, Iowa.

“He was my gentle giant,” said Janet Maher, mother of Lance Cpl. Sean P. Maher, 19, of Grays Lake, Ill. “He was all of his family’s hero.”

“We were each other’s hero. That’s our thing. When he was younger he wrote an essay about me being his hero ... a Vietnam veteran,” said

Richard Gilbert, father of Cpl. Richard A. Gilbert, 26, of Dayton, Ohio. “I had never had a hero — before my son.”

“He was my first child,” said Belga Saintvil, father of Lance Cpl. Gael Saintvil, 24, of Orange, Fla. “He was a hero to me.”

“He was a good man,” said Robert Grimes, father of Cpl. Kyle Grimes, 21, of Northhampton, Pa. “He was a parent’s dream.”

“His best friend said it best at his funeral. ‘Jon was liked by everyone he met. He was America’s son,’” said William Etterling, father of Lance Cpl. Jonathon E. Etterling, 22, of Wheelersburg, Ohio. “It is hard to improve on that.”

“He was my best friend, husband and soul mate,” said Melanie House, wife of Petty Officer 3rd Class John D. House, 28, Ventura, Calif.

House was one of three service members that never got to hold his newborn.

They were 28 very different souls pulled from all across the nation — similar in many respects — bonded together as brothers. Each left lives touched forever, and will be remembered always.

Patterson closed his remarks at the service with, “These are indeed the times that try men’s souls, but I thank God we have men and women like those we honor here today who have strength, human decency and freedom. May God bless them, their families and the United States of America for the courage and perseverance to stand up for humanity.”



Lance Cpl. Bernadette L. Ainsworth

**Colleen Parkin, mother of Cpl. Matthew Smith, grasps her son’s dog tags as she remembers him at the memorial held Monday at the State Capitol.**



Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia

Fish jump from the water, greeting the canoes preparing to dock at Hale Koa beach, Kaneohe Bay, during the Makahiki closing ceremonies, Saturday. Makahiki represents a time for peace, games and festivities for native Hawaiians.

MAKAHIKI, From A-1

ered sacred land.

“This is the land of our ancestors, and to have our canoes land at Kahananui — much as they did in times of old — gives me a feeling of being connected,” said Camvel. “It is vital to our cultural identity that we not only maintain our traditions, but that we foster them and pass them on to the younger generations, which is why we have our keiki [children] with us, as well as our elders.”

Leighton Manueu Suganuma, the grandson of a retired U.S. Army brigadier general, and a lifelong Windward resident, commented that the relationship between MCB Hawaii and native Hawaiian groups is one that has improved immensely over the past few years.

“The sense I get now is that there is a shared respect between the base and the Hawaiians, and that wasn’t always the case,” admitted Suganuma. “The Hawaiians have a proud warrior tradition, as does the Marine Corps. For the base to welcome us with open arms to conduct our ceremonies, and for some Marines to even participate, shows

just how far both sides have come toward a better understanding of one another.”

One of those Marines, Sgt. Gary Goss, a Corporal’s Course instructor from Tuscaloosa, Ala., said it was especially meaningful for him to be a part of Makahiki.

“For them to ask my wife and I to enter their circle and take part in the ‘ava’ ceremony was a great honor,” said Goss. “At first, I was a little nervous because I could tell there was a lot of ritual behind the drinking from communal bowls, and I didn’t want to break any protocols. Instead of pretending that I knew what was going on, I just admitted I had no idea of what to do, and the Hawaiians were very gracious and led me through the process. By the end of the day, I truly felt like I had made some new friends and that I gained a greater understanding and appreciation of Hawaiian culture.”

Responses like Goss’s are the reason ARCH opened up Makahiki to all service and family members aboard the base, noted Camvel.

“It was really encouraging to see some of the Marines respond the way they did,” said Camvel. “It is not only a cultural event of great

significance for us, but it is also an opportunity for both the military and the Hawaiians to gain a greater understanding and appreciation of one another.”



Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia

Kapono Souza, a Windward resident and Makahiki participant, hoists Lono’s cloud-like akua loa after landing via canoe at the Hale Koa Beach area to mark the end of Makahiki season.

PEGASUS, From A-1

than twelve hours,” said Logsdon, a Monrovia, Calif. native. “Spirits were high, too. Everyone just pulled together and achieved the goal in remarkable time. We thought it would take all weekend, but it only took half a day.”

The short-term effect was that the unit’s teamwork guaranteed that the Marines would attend the course, and the long-term effect was that the Marines would become weapons and tactics instructor qualified, which is a huge asset to the entire squadron.

“We need more, better-trained Marines,” said Logsdon. “If we deploy to the desert, we want to be able to feel as confident as possible. By sending these Marines to the course, we will be accomplishing that goal.”

For the Marines who were going, the news that the trip was on again was a complete relief.

“I was with the crew that tore apart the helicopters to get them ready to be shipped,” said Lance Cpl. Mitchell



C. Harquail, crew chief, HMH-463. “I didn’t mind being there, though, because I really wanted to attend the course.”

Harquail is one of the three Marines who will be attending the course and said he is excited to get the opportunity to go.

“I am eager to be able to return and help out other Marines,” said the New Brunswick, Canada native. “If I go into combat with these Marines, I want to know that they are properly trained. Being able to be a part of that learning process is an honor.”

Although the Marines had to come in on their day off and worked hard for extended periods of time, their morale, according to Castaneda, never seemed to falter — and having been treated to \$200 worth of pizza was an even larger morale builder.

“You couldn’t ask for a better group of Marines,” Castaneda stated. “This squadron has been working like this for over a year now. No matter how difficult the task is, they always come through and get the job done.”

BLAND, From A-6

and collected. He was relaxed. To him everything had to be smooth. Being calm made him accomplish everything he did. Though he was calm, recruits and Marines, alike, still listened and did what he said.”

Bland was also referred to as “the Green Belt Champion,” because he was a difficult wrestling opponent.

“He thrived on playing hard and being tough,” Sonsini said. “I never saw signs of weakness. I never saw him sweat, but then again, we didn’t drink much water,” he said, laughing.

Bland was also known for his sharp and well-tailored uniform, which seemed almost perfect at times.

“One time, we had to be in Service

‘A’ uniform — immediately. Bland wasn’t worried,” Sonsini recalled. “Bland simply pulled his Alphas out of a sea bag and shook them out. What was surprising is that all his ribbons were in place and the uniform looked like it came out of the cleaners.”

Truly a Marine to remember, “Super” Bland will be recognized by Co. I leaders who plan to honor him with a memorial inside 3rd Battalion headquarters.

To the Marines who knew Bland, he exemplified perseverance by continuously setting high standards for himself and those he led.

“Bland’s life represented never settling for less,” remarked Sonsini, “because he always wanted to take things to the next level.”